

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic endoscope system having an electronic endoscope and a processor that processes an output of the electronic endoscope,

the electronic endoscope including:

an image capturing element adapted to capture an image of an object to be observed;

a signal processing circuit that receives the output of the image capturing element and generates a digital video signal;

a digitized information outputting system that outputs digitized information representing at least information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope and control information for the processor; and

a digitized information superimposing system that superimposes the digitized information output by the digitized information outputting system on the digital video signal output by the signal processing circuit.

2. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic endoscope is provided with a storage, which stores the information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope, the digitized information outputting system retrieving the information intrinsic to the electronic

endoscope from the storage.

3. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1, wherein the information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope includes a type of the electronic endoscope.

4. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 3, wherein the electronic endoscope outputs the digital video signal including the superimposed digitized information to the processor, and

wherein the processor processes the digital video signal extracted from the output of the electronic endoscope in accordance with the information intrinsic to the electronic endoscope.

5. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic endoscope is provided with at least one operable member which can be operated by a user, and

wherein the digitized information outputting system outputs the control information in response to an operation of the at least one operable member.

6. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 5, wherein the processor includes an extracting system that extracts the digitized information from the digital video

signal including the superimposed digitized information.

7. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 6, wherein the processor includes a controller that controls a device to which the digitized information as extracted is directed.

8. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 7, wherein the processor is connected with a displaying device, the controller controlling the displaying device in accordance with the control information represented by the digitized information.

9. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 7, wherein the processor is connected with a printing device, the controller controlling the printing device in accordance with the control information represented by the digitized information.

10. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 1, wherein the digital video signal output by the signal processing system includes luminance signal and color difference signals which are multiplexed in accordance with a time-division multiplexing method.

11. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 10, wherein the digitized information superimposing system superimposes the digitized information such that the luminance signal, color difference signals and the digitized information are multiplexed in accordance with a time-division multiplexing method.

12. The electronic endoscope system according to claim 11, wherein the multiplexed luminance signal, color difference signals and the digitized information is a parallel digital video signal, and

wherein the electronic endoscope further includes a converting system that converts the parallel digital video signal into a serial digital video signal.

13. A method of controlling a processor of an electronic endoscope system that includes an electronic endoscope and the processor, comprising:

the electronic endoscope generating a digital video signal;

the electronic endoscope superimposing control information to control the processor on the digital video signal;

the electronic endoscope transmitting the superimposed digital video signal including the control information

superimposed;

the processor receiving the superimposed digital video signal and extracting the control information; and

the processor operating in accordance with the control information.